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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

#### FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

AG. G. a minor, by and through his guardian ad litem, JESSICA AQUINO; AR. G., a minor, by and through his guardian ad litem, JESSICA AQUINO; KARLA GONSALEZ, individually; and AUGUSTIN GONZALES JR., individually;

Plaintiffs,

vs.

CITY OF HAYWARD, a municipal corporation; MARK KOLLER, individually; PHILLIP WOOLEY, individually; MICHAEL CLARK, individually; TASHA DECOSTA, individually; and DOES 1-100, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. 4:19-cv-00697 DMR

DECLARATION OF BENJAMIN NISENBAUM IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

Date: July 9, 2020 Time: 1:00 p.m. Courtroom: 4

Hon. Donna M. Ryu

# EXHIBIT E

Declaration of Benjam Nisenbaum in support of Plaintiffs' Opposition to Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment 1 GONSALEZ, et al. v. CITY OF HAYWARD, et al.

# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA --000--AG.G. a minor, by and through ) his guardian ad litem, JESSICA) AQUINO; AR.G., a minor, by and) through his quardian ad litem,) JESSICA AQUINO; KARLA GONSALEZ) individually; and AUGUSTIN GONSALEZ, JR., individually, Plaintiffs, vs. ) CASE NO.: 4:19-cv-00697 DMR CITY OF HAYWARD, a municipal corporation; MARK KOLLER, individually; PHILLIP WOOLEY, individually; MICHAEL CLARK, individually; TASHA DECOSTA, individually; and DOES 1-100, ) inclusive, Defendants.

DEPOSITION OF OFFICER MICHAEL CLARK
TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2020

CERTIFIED COPY

REPORTED BY: ANGELICA R. GUTIERREZ, CSR NO. 13292

# 

1	Pursuant to Notice of Taking Deposition and on
2	Tuesday, January 28, 2020, commencing at the hour of 10:24
3	a.m., thereof, at the Law Offices of John L. Burris, 7677
4	Oakport Street, Suite 1120, Oakland, California, before
5	me, ANGELICA R. GUTIERREZ, CSR No. 13292, a Certified
6	Shorthand Reporter and Deposition Officer of the State of
7	California, there personally appeared:
8	
9	OFFICER MICHAEL CLARK,
10	
11	called as a witness by the Plaintiffs, who having been
12	duly sworn by me, to tell the truth, the whole truth and
13	nothing but the truth, testified as hereinafter set forth:
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1	OFFICER MICHAEL CLARK,
2	having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:
3	THE WITNESS: (TO OATH) Yes.
4	EXAMINATION BY BENJAMIN NISENBAUM
5	MR. NISENBAUM: Q. Can you please state and
6	spell your name?
7	A. Michael Clark, M-I-C-H-A-E-L, C-L-A-R-K.
8	Q. And what is your current occupation?
9	A. Police officer.
.0	Q. Where are you employed at?
1	A. City of Hayward.
_2	Q. Do you have any other experience as a police
L3	officer or a peace officer?
<b>L</b> 4	A. Yes.
L5	Q. Where?
L6	A. The city of Stockton.
L7	Q. When were you at Stockton?
8.	A. From '07 to '09.
L9	Q. Was that before their bankruptcy?
20	A. Yes. And Well, Yes. Yes. And and
21	both.
22	Q. Got it. I understand. And was there break
23	in in employment at Stockton and city of Hayward?
24	A. No.
25	Q. Okay. So while you were working at Stockton,
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    shot and killed him, correct?
2
              MR. VIGILIA: Objection. Misstates the
    evidence, lacks foundation.
3
4
              MR. NISENBAUM: Q. When you shot and killed
5
    him, rephrase -- strike the past question.
                                                  In fact, he
6
    was walking slowly towards you when you shot and killed
7
    him, correct?
8
              MR. VIGILIA:
                            Objection. Again, misstates the
9
    evidence, lacks foundation.
10
              THE WITNESS: Incorrect.
11
              MR. NISENBAUM: Q. Okay. How was -- was he
    running towards you?
12
13
         Α.
              No.
14
         0.
              Okay. Was he walking towards you?
15
         Α.
              Yes.
16
              Okay. And so, it's incorrect in the sense
         0.
17
    that the word "slowly"; is that right?
18
         Α.
              Yes, I wouldn't say he was walking -- I would
19
     say the proper use of the word -- the proper way to
    describe it would be deliberately and with a purpose.
20
21
         0.
              Okav.
                     Those seem like adjectives, but what
22
    was his body motion? He wasn't running, right?
23
         Α.
              Correct.
24
              He wasn't jogging?
         Q.
25
         Α.
              Correct.
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1	Q. So,	, on the treadmill, you know you've got
2	different se	ettings. You've got walk, jog, and run,
3	right?	
4	A. Yes	5.
5	Q. So,	, what's left? Walk, right?
6	A. Yes	3.
7	Q. Oka	ay. Now, you sense that there was a purpose
8	in his walk,	correct?
9	A. Yes	3.
10	Q. And	d you said "deliberately" correct?
11	A. Yes	3.
12	Q. Oka	ay. And we'll get back to that, but I want
13	to be clear	that at the time you shot and killed
14	Mr. Gonzales	s, he was walking towards you, correct?
15	MR.	. VIGILIA: I'm going to object again.
16	Misstates th	ne evidence, lacks foundation.
17	THE	E WITNESS: He wasn't running, and he wasn't
18	jogging, so	he would be walking.
19	Q. Oka	ay. And at the time you shot and killed
20	Mr. Gonzales	s, you had a taser, correct?
21	A. Yes	3.
22	Q. And	d that taser was located where?
23	A. On	my left hip.
24	Q. Oka	ay. And I take it your taser worked, right?
25	A. Cor	crect.
		44

- 1 Q. So you're familiar with that? 2 Α. Yes. 3 Q. So you know that if a person is 9 feet away, you should have about a foot spread between the probes? 4 5 Α. I'm -- I'm not familiar with the -- the break down of it. I -- overall just the general idea of how 6 7 it works. I'm not -- I'm not a taser -- I'm not 8 trained specifically in the taser instruction 9 purposes -- for instruction purposes. 10 0. I understand that, but you are trained to use 11 a taser, right? 12 Α. Yes. 13 0. So you received this slide show? 14 Α. I think if -- what you are referring to is the 15 slide show that we have in the department, I've 16 received training, yes. 17 Q. You don't have a 35-foot cartridge, correct? That's correct. 18 Α. 19 Ο. I'm going to show you Bates 1938. 20
  - Q. Okay. I'm going to show you Bates 1938. It says, "smart use considerations when reasonable. Use the minimum force necessary to accomplish lawful objectives. Use force only on those that 'actively resisted' or higher. Finally, give a verbal warning before the use of force". Do you see that?
    - A. Yes.

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1 0. Okay. I read it correctly? 2 Α. Yes. 3 Q. Did you give Mr. Gonzales a warning? 4 Α. I did not, personally. 5 Q. Did you here anyone give warning? 6 Α. Yes. 7 Q. Who? 8 Α. Officer Wooley. 9 What did he say? Q. He said -- I believe he said something to the 10 Α. 11 nature of, "stop, show me your hands". Something along 1.2 commands. 13 Ο. Okay. Do you understand that's the difference between a command and a warning? 14 15 Α. Yes. 16 And what's the difference? Q. Okay. 17 Α. A command is something you are telling someone 18 to do, and warning is when you warning them on 19 something like that. 20 So, basically the warning -- a warning would 21 be -- you can do a command and a warning. "Stop or 22 I'll shoot", right? 23 Α. Yes. 24 0. So that would be a warning, correct? 25 Α. That would. 73

1	Q. "Or I'll shoot" is a warning?
2	A. That could be used as a warning. Could also
3	be it's also a command, too.
4	Q. "I'll shoot"? That's a command?
5	A. "Stop" is a command.
6	Q. Right, "stop" is a command. So my question to
7	you is, did you hear a warning with respect to
8	Mr. Gonzales? Did you here anyone give him a warning?
9	A. I I think that the command is sufficient as
10	a warning. It's it's when you're told when
11	you given a command, it's a warning in it's own in
12	it's own right. The words may not have been
13	specifically said, but.
14	Q. Is that consistent with Hayward Police
15	Department policy to your knowledge?
16	A. The Hayward Police Department policy is you
17	should give commands if feasible if reasonable.
18	Q. Doesn't it say you should give warnings if
19	reasonable or feasible?
20	A. Warnings is what I meant to say. Correct.
21	Sorry about that.
22	Q. All right. So that's what the Hayward Police
23	Department policy says, and they are not saying you
24	should give commands if reasonable, you're saying you
25	should give awarning if reasonable, correct?
	7.4

1	A. I think it's all just a matter of
2	interpretation. I think a command can be used as a
3	warning, as well as a warning can be used as a command.
4	It just depends on the inflection.
5	Q. Okay. So that's your personal opinion,
6	correct?
7	A. I think that's just a real life general
8	observation of the facts, sir.
9	Q. So it's your personal opinion?
10	A. It is my personal opinion. It's also a
11	statement of what I believe to be the facts.
12	Q. Okay. So you believe that that saying
13	"stop" is the same thing if you were used the proper
14	inflection. Saying the word "stop" is the same thing
15	as saying "stop, or I'll shoot", right
16	A. Depending on the situation, yes.
17	Q. Okay. And to be clear, is that your personal
18	view, or is that consistent with Hayward Police
19	Department policy?
20	A. It's a I don't think the policy addresses
21	something like that. I don't want to interpose my
22	what the policy says versus what I'm saying because the
23	policy allows for discretion in those matters.
24	Q. The discretion is "if reasonable", correct?
25	A. If reasonable.

1	Q. Okay. So, if it's reasonable to give a
2	warning, then you're supposed to give a warning not
3	just a command, correct?
4	A. It's your it's advised that you give a
5	warning. It's not a must in all situations.
6	Q. But if reasonable, you should, correct?
7	A. You should, yes.
8	Q. You should give a warning, correct, if it's
9	reasonable?
10	A. Correct.
11	Q. Did anybody give Mr. Gonzales a warning that
12	he would be shot if he didn't stop?
13	A. Again, I'm going to I believe yes. I don't
14	think it I know what you are saying. You're asking
15	for direct, certain verbiage, but he was give a warning
16	without certain words being used.
17	Q. Is there a warning shot fired?
18	A. No.
19	Q. Okay. So, it wasn't a warning shot fired.
20	Was it the demeanor of the officers that gave the
21	warning? It was your demeanor that was a warning?
22	A. Yes, that's an aspect of it, as well.
23	Q. Okay. So, the fact that guns were pointed at
24	him and the demeanor of the officers along with the
25	commands being given to him, the commands to being

1	stopped and similar commands, in totality constituted
2	the warning, correct?
3	A. Yes, exactly.
4	Q. Now, you have been trained in how to respond
5	to mentally impaired subjects, correct?
6	A. Yes, I have.
7	Q. And subjects who exhibit signs of mental
8	problems, correct?
9	A. Yes, I have.
LO	Q. Okay. And you've also been trained in how to
L1	respond to subjects who exhibit symptoms of suicide by
L2	cop, correct?
L3	A. Correct.
L4	Q. Okay. And you have no training that says that
L5	if a person is exhibiting signs of suicide by cop that
L6	it's okay to then shoot them, correct.
L7	A. I'm sorry. Can you repeat the question?
L8	Q. You don't have any training that says if a
L9	subject is exhibiting suicide by cop that it is okay to
20	then shoot them?
21	MR. VIGILIA: Objection, incomplete
22	hypothetical.
23	THE WITNESS: Scenarios change. Situations
24	change. Trainings it's all scenario-based and it's
25	subjective to that actual particular incident at the

1	time.
2	Q. Let me be more specific.
3	A. Sure.
4	Q. Simply because a person is exhibiting signs of
5	being suicidal or they want to commit suicide by cop,
6	it doesn't mean that you are not still bound to to
7	follow department policy in law, correct? You're still
8	bound by the policy in law of the department, correct?
9	A. Yes.
LO	Q. Okay. And the law state of California and the
L1	United States of America, correct?
L2	A. Yes.
L3	Q. Okay. And that law requires you to act
L4	reasonably when you use force against subjects,
L5	correct?
L6	A. Correct.
L 7	Q. And that law requires you to take into
L8	consideration whether the person appears to be mentally
L9	impaired, correct.
20	MR. VIGILIA: Objection. Misstates the laws
21	and asks for legal conclusion.
22	THE WITNESS: Its reasonable to consider all
23	those things if the circumstances allows.
24	MR. NISENBAUM: Q. You understand that your
25	department policy requires that, correct?

to put them in and annotate them into your detail.

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- Up until point when shots were fired, 0. Okav. can you tell me what you had heard over the radio ?
- Α. Sure. I got dispatched to a man that was 5 brandishing a knife and threatening people with a 6 Hispanic male, blue jeans, and a red, possibly knife. 7 black colored shirt at O'Neill and Orchard. 8 continued to here that there was still an ongoing situation, had not solved itself, meaning that there 10 was still a need for us to respond. As I got closer to 11 the scene, there was people -- I heard that there was 1.2 people -- I heard that there was updates of people 13 being flagged down, that the address had actually 14 changed to a physical address, or at least in front of 15 one, and that -- but at that time, I got out, I ascertained the situation and made the decision, based 16 17 on my training and experience, what I perceived to be my partner in immediate, bodily harm. And I feared for 18 19 his death and his safety, so therefore I made the decision, which I'm trained to do, which I realized at 20 21 the time was a need for a lethal force situation.
  - You never saw anything in mister -- when you say -- strike that. When you say you got out and saw your -- your fellow officer and you were in fear of his safety, and you did what you were trained to do, what

1	you mean is you started shooting, correct?
2	A. Not without
3	MR. VIGILIA: Objection, argumentative.
4	MR. NISENBAUM: Q. Okay. What did what do
5	you mean? You said you did what you were trained to
6	do?
7	A. Sure. Based on the information that I had, I
8	saw a man who matched the description who was I
9	heard in the the seven seconds that this whole event
LO	unraveled, unfolded, there were I heard commands
L1	that my partner was giving, which I believe to be a
L2	warning and a command at the same time because, as I
L3	mentioned earlier, requesting someone and showing the
L4	gun pointing a gun at someone and telling them to
L5	stop is as much an equal warning as it is a command.
L6	And he was directly making pre-threat indicators
L7	towards my partner as he walked towards him, and I
L8	believed he was armed with a knife, so therefore,
L9	because my partner's life was in jeopardy, I discharged
20	my firearm to stop the threat.
21	Q. And so you shot him?
22	A. I did.
23	Q. Okay. How many times?
24	A. Three? Two or three. Somewhere around there.
25	Q. And at the time that you shot him, you saw
	147

1	that your partner had his gun out, correct?
2	A. I knew my partner had his gun out, yes.
3	Q. Who shot first, you or your partner?
4	A. I have no idea.
5	Q. Okay. Did you see your partner shoot at all?
6	A. I didn't see him shoot, I heard him shoot.
7	Q. What's your partner's name?
8	A. Officer Wooley.
9	Q. What's his first name?
10	A. Phillip.
11	Q. Okay. So when you saw Officer Wooley well,
12	when you heard Officer Wooly's shot, did they proceed
13	yours?
14	A. I don't recall. I think it was all the same
15	time.
16	Q. How many shots did you hear from Officer
17	Wooley?
18	A. I don't know.
19	Q. Okay. At no time did you see any weapon in
20	Mr. Gonzalez's hand, correct?
21	A. I did not. I was I didn't have the
22	opportunity to allow for the possibility for there to
23	be one or not.
24	Q. And Mr. Gonzalez's was well-lit by headlights,
25	right?
	148

1	A. There's no such thing as "well-lit" in the
2	dark, whether you have lights or not.
3	Q. So your
4	A. You're well-lit. You are well-lit, but if we
5	take the light out of this room and it's dark outside
6	and I put a flashlight on you, a spotlight, or
7	headlights on you, you're I can see you. Doesn't
8	mean you're well-lit.
9	Q. Could you see his hands?
10	A. I could see his hands.
11	Q. Was there any objects in his hands?
12	A. I didn't see any objects in his hands, but he
13	was presenting his hands in a way as if he had
14	something
15	Q. Show me how he was presenting them.
16	A. Something along the lines of this.
17	Q. Please stand and show me. He wasn't sitting,
18	was he?
19	A. He wasn't sitting. So, he had his hands out,
20	for the court purposes.
21	Q. You're holding your hands together, you're
22	collapsing and I take it you have the correct hands,
23	if you can recall?
24	A. It wouldn't really matter to know which hands.
25	Either way

1	dangerous.
2	Q. Again, I'm here to get the facts of what you
3	observed?
4	A. Sure. That's what I observed.
5	Q. So what you observed I'm not asking what is
6	equally dangerous. I'm asking what you actually
7	observed. So the way you're holding that your hands is
8	your best recollection of how he was holding his hands,
9	Mr. Gonzales, correct?
10	A. Correct.
11	Q. Okay. And did you see anything, any object,
12	any item in his hands, whatsoever?
13	A. I didn't time to see anything.
14	Q. My question, yes or no?
15	A. I did no see anything, no.
16	Q. Thank you.
17	A. May I sit down?
18	Q. Yes.
19	A. Thank you.
20	Q. Thank you for asking. Did you know that
21	Sergeant DeCosta was there?
22	A. I knew she was I knew she was on scene,
23	yes.
24	Q. Did you drive by her?
25	A. At the time, I didn't know that I did.
	152

1	seven seconds, but I still believe that you can
2	formulate a game plan, and you can formulate tactics,
3	and you can think about all these things. The
4	application of which was not there, because there was
5	no time to do so. There was one specific way to handle
6	this, unfortunately, and it was the way had it was
7	handled.
8	Q. Did you see anything that blocked Officer
9	Wooley from moving backwards?
10	A. There I don't know I didn't know
11	anything at the time. I didn't see anything at the
12	time, but that's not say there wasn't. I wasn't really
13	focused on what was behind Officer Wooley at the time.
14	Q. And was Mr. Gonzales we've already
15	discussed he wasn't charging at Officer Wooley,
16	correct?
17	A. I would say he was.
18	Q. So walking towards Officer Wooley is charging
19	at him?
20	A. In this situation yes.
21	Q. Okay. What is your definition of charge?
22	A. When given commands to stop and you continue
23	in a in a way that is threatening, that would be
24	charging.
25	Q. So, walking at with a methodical at a
	155

1	methodical pace, like, just walking with towards
2	Officer Wooley, that's charging?
3	A. Based on this situation, yes. It was.
4	Q. Okay. And he could have moved if he was
5	running, I take it?
6	A. He could have moved faster, and he could have
7	moved slower, and he could have stopped.
8	Q. He could have stopped or run in place?
9	A. He could have run in place, too.
LO	Q. And so, at no time, did you ever see Officer
L1	Wooley attempt to change his location, correct?
L2	A. I I knew where Officer Wooley was in
L3	proximity to to me. Again, I wasn't focused on what
L4	Officer Wooley was doing.
L5	Q. Okay. And you don't know who fired first
L6	you or Officer Wooley?
L7	A. Correct.
L8	Q. You know that neither of you had tasers out,
L9	correct?
20	A. That is correct. Well, I didn't know I
21	didn't know at the time. Let me reiterate. I now know
22	after the fact of watching those videos that Officer
23	Wooley did not have his out at the time or didn't
24	had it or did not have at the time.
25	A. I thought you said you saw he had him at
	156

7 I	officer	s believe.	Tagled	foundatio	2
444	OTTTCETS	DELIEVE.	Lacks	Cundatic	11.

- A. To answer your question, I -- I can't, you know, say what other officers would do. I can say that it's -- you should not drink a gallon of whiskey, but that doesn't mean can't do it if you really wanted to. That's the metaphor. Perhaps a poor one, but that's the point I'm trying convey.
  - Q. That's a pretty poor metaphor.
- A. But I think it's the point that I'm trying to convey that should be taken out of that, not the metaphor itself.
- Q. Got it. I think I understand the metaphor.

  Thank you. Now, you heard Officer Wooley, before shots were fired, saying, "Put down the knife. Put down the knife", correct?
  - A. Correct.
- Q. Okay. And you never saw Sergeant DeCosta at the scene until after shots were fired, correct?
  - A. That is correct.
- Q. And how far were you from Mr. Gonzales when you shot him?
  - A. Between 12 to 15 feet.
- Q. Okay. And you were approaching him?
- 24 A. I was.
- Q. Okay. As you shot, were you walking?

1	Q. His left side? Okay. And did you believe
2	that you were about the same distance from Officer
3	Wooley as you were from Mr. Gonzales when you shot him?
4	A. In close proximity. About the same distance.
5	Q. Okay. Were you closer you were in a
6	straight line. Were you closer to Mr. Gonzales than to
7	Officer Wooley?
8	A. I would say I was probably slightly closer to
9	Officer Wooley, maybe. Not by much, though. Maybe a
10	foot or two.
11	Q. So how long after you heard Officer Wooley
12	say, "put the knife down", did you the last time you
13	heard him say it did you fire?
14	A. I heard him saying it as I was approaching
15	Mr. Gonzalez.
16	Q. I understand that. How long after you last
17	heard him say, "put the knife down" did you fire?
18	A. Split second.
19	Q. Was he still saying that when you fired?
20	A. I don't recall.
21	Q. Okay. And last thing I want to do is watch
22	the video. I want to make sure that I don't have any
23	other questions here. Did you hear Officer Wooley say,
24	"put the knife down" or "he's got the knife"?
25	A. I believe I heard both.
	162

1	Q. A box cutter looks like a container that holds
2	a razor of some sort, right?
3	A. Correct.
4	Q. And typically it's retractable, correct?
5	A. Correct.
6	Q. And so, what do you recall the color of the
7	box cutter that you thought you saw?
8	A. I just saw a silver object that I thought was
9	a box cutter.
10	Q. And so, you obviously didn't get a good look
11	at it, correct?
12	A. I saw a silver object that was a blade, and I
13	thought it was a box cutter. It was later brought to
14	my attention it was just a razor blade.
15	Q. Are you aware well, strike that. As you
16	sit here, do you have a recollection of getting a good
17	look at this object at the scene?
18	A. Not a good look, I just remember seeing a
19	bladed like I said, I thought I saw a box cutter.
20	Q. And you can't say what color you thought it
21	was, correct?
22	A. It was silver.
23	Q. Okay.
24	A. I remember seeing something silver. I didn't
25	have time to exam it, though.
	165

1	you're	running?
2	Α.	That would fall under "should".
3	Q.	Okay. Thank you. No further questions.
4		(Deposition concluded at 3:13 PM)
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1	STATE OF CALIFORNIA )
2	) ss. COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA )
3	
4	I, Angelica R. Gutierrez, a licensed Certified
5	Shorthand Reporter, duly qualified and certified as such
6	by the State of California;
7	That prior to being examined, the witness named in
8	the foregoing deposition was by me duly sworn to testify
9	to the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth;
10	That the deposition was by me recorded
11	stenographically at the time and place first herein
12	mentioned, and the foregoing pages constitute a full,
13	true, complete and correct record of the testimony given
14	by the said witness;
15	That I am a disinterested person, not being in any
16	way interested in the outcome of said action, nor
17	connected with, nor related to any of the parties in said
18	action, or to their respective counsel, in any manner
19	whatsoever.
20	
21	DATED: January 28, 2020
22	
23	/s/Angelica R. Gutierrez
24	ANGELICA R. GUTIERREZ, CSR No. 13292
25	
	193